

The COmbined Dna Index System Newsletter

October 2008

Thank You...

We've had **258 hits** so far this year!

The CODIS Lab is already starting to see more samples come in from the expanded convicted offender legislation. Thank you for your diligence in collecting these samples!

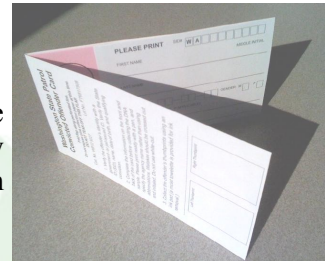


Some of the CODIS Forensic Scientists:

Monica Price, Sherri Phillips, Natasha Pranger, Carol Vo

Coming Soon!

An all-in-one submission card and DNA collection card! This new format decreases the amount of information you need to fill out and will also reduce the risk of accidentally switching submission cards and DNA samples. We anticipate sending out new kits with these updated cards at the end of the year.



Q & A

What services are provided by the Washington State Patrol crime laboratories?

A description of the forensic services we provide can be found in the Forensic Services Guide (<http://www.wsp.wa.gov/forensics/flsbhome.htm>). This handbook is also an excellent resource for information on the proper collection and handling of physical evidence and how to submit evidence to the lab.

Does the CODIS Lab generate reports for submitted convicted offender samples?

No. However, the status of a sample can be checked on the individual's criminal history record. If a sample has been received or typed by the lab, the corresponding "DNA Taken" and "DNA Typed" fields will be set to "Y". You may also contact the CODIS Lab at (206) 262-6020 and we can check to see if a DNA sample exists for an individual.



Scientist Robert Dorion in the lab.

A number of collectors have asked how to indicate an individual is having a DNA sample collected because s/he is required to register as a sex or kidnapping offender. In the "Offense" field of the submission card, it is okay to simply write "SOR".

The FBI # should be used for Sex/Kidnapping Registrants from out-of-state who do not yet have a WA SID.

Q & A Continued

If there isn't a strong color change on the pink DNA collection paper, should I circle where the sample is with a pen?

No, do not write on the pink DNA collection paper. Some inks can interfere with the DNA typing process used by the CODIS Lab. Additionally, this increases the risk of accidental sample contamination. If you suspect a sample is weak, give the offender some water to drink and then collect a new sample.

Can I write outside the boxes printed on the submission card?

Yes. All submission cards are read by CODIS staff members, not a computer. Please write out the individual's full name and the full offense (standard abbreviations are okay), including the degree, even if there aren't enough boxes.. Complete information helps us process samples much faster!

Save Some Time with Sample Collection

A pre-printed label or stamp may be used for agency and collector information. Submission cards still need to be signed and dated.

The CODIS Lab continues to receive duplicate samples. Please check the individual's criminal history record to see if a DNA sample has already been received by the CODIS Lab. If the "DNA Taken" field is set to "Y", please do not submit another sample. This will save time and resources for the CODIS Lab and you as collectors.

If you do not have access to criminal history records, you can request access as outlined below:

- Go to <https://WATCHcj.wsp.wa.gov>
- Click on "Forms" on the upper left.
- Click on "WATCH-CJ Account Application Packet" and fill out the form.
- FAX the form to (360) 534-2073.

Does My Convicted Offender's Offense Qualify For Collection?

Use the flow chart below to determine if a DNA sample should be collected from a convicted offender.

